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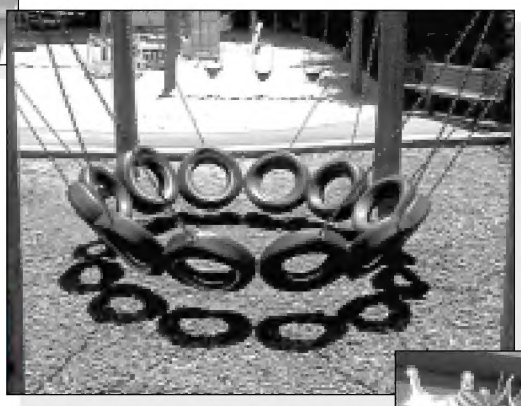
LAFAYETTE VISTAS

LET'S KEEP THESE SECRETS!!

Lafayette is a great place to live – our convenient location, small town atmosphere, and flourishing downtown earn justifiably high ratings. But while others may know us for our excellent schools and magnificent reservoir, there are many other "greats" that we keep to ourselves – the "secret" places and things that make Lafayette truly special. What are they? Well, we asked a few "insiders," and here's what we found.

1 While the lower trail at the Lafayette Reservoir is well used by walkers, joggers, and bikers, the UPPER RIM TRAIL is even more beautiful and seldom traveled. It's tough hiking – close to 5 miles of steep ups and downs, but the panoramic views and vistas make it well worth the effort.

2 If you're looking for a comfortable place for a quick bite, or a late night snack, you couldn't do better than the BISTRO at the Lafayette Park Hotel. It offers an inexpensive selection of soups, pizzettas, sandwiches, salads, and deserts from 11:30 am to 11:00 pm. The attractive bar, cozy tables, comfortable stuffed chairs, book-lined walls, fireplace, and seasonal patio seating make this casual, elegant place a great stop.



3 Young kids love the diminutive BROOK STREET TOT LOT that was especially designed for children ages two to eight. Adult supervision is required for the scaled-down swings, climbing equipment, and other fun apparatus. There's a shaded area with benches and tables for picnics.

4 Whether you quilt, sew, or do other fabric crafts, you'll find everything you need at two Brown Avenue stores. THE COTTON PATCH, one of the best quilt shops in the Bay area, was established on Brown Ave. 22 years ago, and the LAFAYETTE SEWING CENTER has done business across the street for 33 years. Both shops offer supplies, classes, equipment and repairs. On July 29, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Cotton Patch will host its 11th Annual Outdoor Quilt show, with more than 350 quilts on display, demonstrations, entertainment, and more. In addition to the Lafayette Sewing Center, other Brown Avenue merchants participating in the day's events include Fumble Fingers, Brown Avenue Antiques, the Antiquary, Rosie's Resale Shop, Kaffee Barbara and They Grow So Fast.

5 There's nothing secret about Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre – but its COSTUME GALLERY is a real find! Rental costumes are available year-round for $5 to $45. You can find children's or adult's costumes for a full production, or accessory pieces for an event or party.

(continued on back page)

Green Light for "Downtown Project"

The City Council has approved the Downtown Project – Lafayette's largest-ever capital improvement project. After more than two years of review and a half-day-long public workshop on May 6, construction has begun at and around the City's busiest intersection (Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd.). Designed primarily to improve traffic flow, the 18-month project will also rebuild, enlarge, and re-landscape Lafayette Plaza, reconfigure Plaza Way, and realign Golden Gate Way.

Phase 1 of the project, which should be completed by mid-September, will include work on the Lafayette Plaza area and the north half of Golden Gate Way from Plaza Way to First St. Phase 2 of the project, which will begin in mid-September and should be completed by November, will include work on the southern half of Golden Gate Way from Plaza Way to First St.

Although construction will require travel lane closures, at least one lane of the affected streets will be kept open at all times. During the final paving operation, Golden Gate Way will be completely closed to through traffic. All traffic lanes on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd. will remain open before 9:00 am and after 3:30 pm. However, lane closures on Golden Gate Way will occur between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Residents and people traveling through the area are asked to be patient and to drive carefully. Please comply with all traffic control measures, and be attentive to construction equipment and workers, as well as opposing traffic.

Students Participate in Banner Program

The bright purple **"Love Lafayette"** flags that launched the City's year-round banner program have been quite a hit with residents and visitors alike. In June, the program's second flag was installed – a bright blue banner designed by Lafayette resident **Laura Fisher**, a junior at Acalanes High School.

Laura's design, featuring a bright yellow semi-circle sun, is featured on the 30" by 94" panels that flutter along Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette's business district. Students from local public and private junior high and high schools were invited to design a banner as part of a program incorporating art in the community. The invitation resulted in 21 entries judged by the Banner Advisory Committee, made up of the Design Review chair, the City manager, and a local graphic artist.

The second place award went to **Stacy Koo**, also a junior at Acalanes High School. Third place went to **Jenny Astrup**, an 8th grade student at Stanley Middle School.

Summer 2000 Construction Projects

The summer construction season is in full swing. And although it may prove inconvenient to many residents, it's an essential element in the City's effort to aggressively maintain and upgrade Lafayette's infrastructure. If you live near or travel through one of the construction zones, please be patient. Drive slowly and carefully, allow for extra time during posted work periods, and travel during non-commute times as much as possible. While traffic flow and the "look" of downtown are being improved by the Downtown Plaza construction (see above), the following improvement projects are also underway.

Phase 2 Pleasant Hill Rd. Improvements

Work on Pleasant Hill Rd. from Reliez Valley Rd. to the City limit includes pavement repairs and upgraded signal controls. Drainage improvements, a new center median and embankment stabilization at Rancho View Dr. are also part of the project.

Phase 2 First St. Improvements

This project will repair the pavement on First St. from Golden Gate Way to School St. A mixed-use pedestrian/bicycle path will be installed along the east side of the road, and existing sidewalk will be repaired. New median and roadside landscaping and an irrigation system will also be installed.

Solana Dr. Pavement & Drainage Improvements

Solana Dr. will be repaired and a new drainage system installed between St. Mary's Rd. and Hamlin Rd. The new storm drain system will replace the existing roadside ditches and divert water away from private properties.

Mt. View Dr. and Brook St. Improvements

This project will repair the pavement on Mt. View Dr. from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to the end of the publicly-maintained road, and on Brook St. from Mt. View Dr. to Cerrito Ct. Work will include a new asphalt concrete pathway on the east side of Mt. View Dr., with a new underground drainage system under the pathway. Sewer and water lines will also be replaced during construction.

Dewing Ave. Pavement & Drainage Improvements

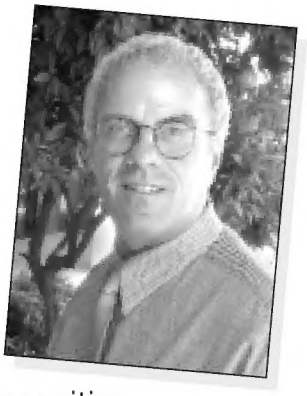
The pavement on Dewing Ave. from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to Brook St. will be repaired, along with sections of concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the east side of Dewing Ave. from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to Brook St. A new asphalt concrete pathway will be constructed on the west side of Dewing Ave. from Bickerstaff Rd. to Walnut St., along with street widening and pathway drainage system improvements. Additional drainage improvements will be made at the intersections of Bickerstaff Rd. and Chestnut St.

New Management Team

Lafayette welcomed three new members to its management team this Spring. Vistas takes pride in introducing them to you, in the order they joined the City staff.

CRAIG EWING

Community Development Director



A professional city planner for over than 15 years, Craig is a second-generation Californian whose most recent post was with the City of Malibu. He brings general plan, hillside and design review experience and specializes in smaller semi-rural communities. Craig has an MPA from the University of Southern California, two years of graduate study in city planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a BA in economics from UC Santa Barbara. Craig can be reached at 284-1968.

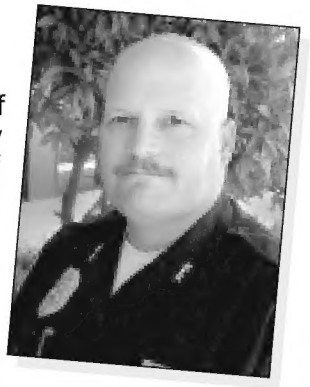
TRACY ROBINSON

Administrative Services Director

Tracy worked for World Savings in a variety of positions over the past 12 years, including loan department Budget Manager and Director of Desktop Applications. As the City's business manager, she will oversee finance, budget, personnel, recruitment, technology and the City Clerk responsibilities. Tracy graduated second in her MBA class at UC Davis, and has a BS degree in molecular biology from Cal Berkeley. She joined the City staff on May 1. Tracy's phone number is 299-3227

HANK DAVIS

Police Chief



A twenty-two year veteran of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's department, Chief Davis served as a Deputy patrolling Lafayette from 1981 to 1984. He believes that he still holds the record for the most traffic citations written in a single month (232). He then managed traffic enforcement activity in San Ramon, and served for four years as a Supervising Sergeant in Orinda. Most recently, Hank coordinated the efforts of 700 Sheriff's Office volunteers. He resumed work in Lafayette on May 8. Hank was named "Explorer Advisor of the Year" for 1999 by the National Sheriff"s Association for his work with the Explorer Scouts Program.

AROUND TOWN

Sept. 16 & 17

5TH ANNUAL ART & WINE FESTIVAL – Downtown Lafayette. Arts and crafts booths, wine and micro-brewed beer, restaurants and vendors, live music, a kidzone for children of all ages. This is also your opportunity to meet your City Councilmembers at the City's booth, and the only place to get your FREE "Love Lafayette" bumper sticker. Call the Chamber at 284-7404 for information.

TOWN HALL THEATRE – 1st Summer Music Series
283-1557 • 229-2710 (info) Open Tues-Sat: 1-6 pm

- **7/15:** Norton Buffalo and the Knockouts. Hear one of the most talented and versatile harmonica players in the world. 8:00 pm.
- **7/22:** Golden Bough and the McGrath Irish Dancers. This international touring group captures the magic and beauty of Celtic music with the award-winning McGrath Irish Dancers. 8:00 pm.
- **7/29:** Mano Y Mano and Pasion. An evening of flamenco music, singing and dancing. 8:00 pm

CITY PARKS & RECREATION – 284-2232

Children's Summer Shows

All Shows: Stanley School Auditorium, 1pm, Admission $2.50.

- **7/20:** Tony Borders...Ventriloquist. Meet Gladly the Bear, Do-Do Bird, Jr., and others as they travel through time and learn about friendship.
- **7/27:** Magic Dan. Come be dazzled and amazed as Magic Dan performs magical illusions as only he can.
- **8/3:** Puppet Company. Why mosquitoes buzz in our ears and other tales.

Teen Activities: 284-5815

- **8/5 & 8/12:** River Rafting for Teens. Join your friends on a trip down one of California's wild and scenic rivers.

Fall Recreation & Floor Hockey Registration: 8/21

Roller Hockey Registration: 9/6

Do you love pre-schoolers? Lafayette Parks & Recreation is looking for teachers and a teacher's assistant this Fall. Early Childhood Certificate and 2 yrs experience needed. Various work schedules are available. Tues & Thurs: 9am – Noon; Tues–Fri: 12:30 – 3:30 pm. Call 284-2232 for details and an application.

Lafayette's Electronic Forum

Have a question related to the City? An opinion? You can post it on Lafayette's Community Forum at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us. There are currently four electronic forums available for conversing with other members of the community and city government: Lafayette General discussion, Lafayette Government Discussion, Public announcements, Web Site discussion. This is a great way to find out what's going on in your community, and what your neighbors are enthusiastic or concerned about.

Let's Keep These Secrets!

(continued from front page)

6 Kids and parents have been rejecting the "big box" experience and shopping at HANDLEBAR TOYS since 1970. Located in one of the City's oldest buildings, Handlebar carries high-quality infant and children's toys, as well as costumes, books, art supplies, and more. It also has one of the largest collections of Madame Alexander dolls in the Bay Area.

7 At the north end of Lafayette Community Park near St. Mary's Road, the LAS TRAMPAS CREEK and GRIZZLY CREEK areas make up an easily accessible "wilderness" within the City. Whether you want to be active or simply sit and look and listen, you'll find it hard to believe that downtown is less than 10 minutes away.

8 Locals claim that the glazed doughnuts at JOHNNY'S DONUTS make Krispy Kremes pale in comparison. Early in the morning (Johnny's opens at 5am!) commuters and truckers stop here for take out. Later in the day, families and friends take advantage of the counter and booth seats to catch up on news while satisfying their sweet tooth.

9 Lafayette's older residents enjoy diversions including tea dancing, crafts, exercise and bridge at the SENIOR CENTER at the Lafayette Community Center. A wide range of workshops and counseling services addresses more serious issues, including tax, legal, and medical topics.

10 At opposite "ends" of Lafayette you'll find HARRY'S NURSERY and ORCHARD NURSERY – two of the few remaining independent nurseries around. Whether you garden or not, these are places to be inspired by the colors and displays, and to lose track of time and troubles.

Are there "secrets" we've missed? If so, please email your suggestions to Lafay1968@aol.com, and look for a follow-up in future issues of Vistas.

City Directory

Leave your Council Members a message!
Call 284-1968

Council Members		EXT.
Jay Strauss	**Mayor**	**270**
Ivor Samson	**Vice Mayor**	**272**
Carol Federighi	**Council Member**	**273**
Erling Horn	**Council Member**	**271**
Don Tatzin	**Council Member**	**274**

New City Council Members were seated 11/22/99

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

Administration

General Reception and	**284-1968**
Steven Falk, City Manager	**Fax: 284-3169**
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Vacant, City Clerk	**299-3212**

Community Development

- **Director,** Craig Ewing — **284-1968**
- **Engineering Services** — **284-1951**
  Tony Coe, Manager — **299-3203**
- **Planning Services** — **284-1976**
  Mike Henn, Manager
- **Public Works Services**
  Ron Lefler, Manager — **299-3214**
  P.W. Hotline (to report problems) — **299-3259**

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst — **299-3216**
Or 299-3215

Parks and Recreation — **284-2232**

Jennifer Russell, Director
Yvonne Ozorio, Senior Services — **284-5050**
Teen Programs — **284-5815**

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	**911**
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	**284-5010**
Police Business Office:	**283-3680**

Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3232 X 2205

Addresses — **Fax: 284-3169**

Street Address:	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210**
Mailing Address:	**P.O. Box 1968** **Lafayette, CA 94549-1968**
E-mail:	**lafay1968@aol.com**
Website:	**www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

LAFAYETTE

City of Lafayette
P.O. Box 1968
Lafayette, CA 94549-1968

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Tracy, CA 95376

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